THE AVENGERS
#1
NOW
MARVEL
1.1
WITHOUT THE RAW POWER OF IRON MAN, THOR, OR GIANT-MAN, HOW CAN THE VALIANT AVENGERS HOPE TO FILL THEIR BOOTS?

I AM LITERALLY THE SIZE OF A *WASP.*
OUTLET
*MIDTOWN MANHATTAN. YEARS AGO.*
I CAN TAKE *ONE* OF THE MASTERS OF EVIL. MAYBE *TWO.*
THE BLACK KNIGHT.
THE EXECUTIONER.
THE ENCHANTRESS.
AFTER THAT...
THE MYSTERIOUS MELTER.

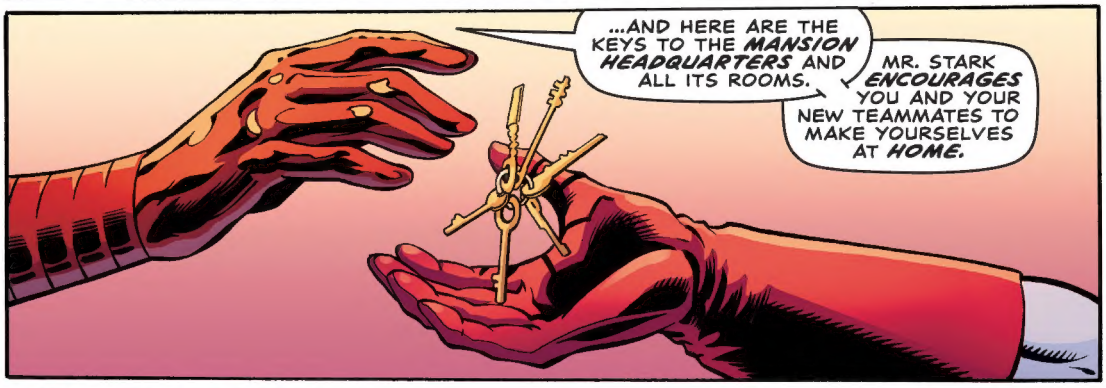
BLANGGG!
...WELL, I GUESS THE BOYS CAN PLAY CLEAN-UP.
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
MY SWEETHEART, HIGH-POCKETS HANK, PEELS THE HORSE'S ASS OFF THE HORSE WITHOUT HESITATING.
NEVER CHALLENGE THE AVENGERS, KNIGHT!
ESPECIALLY NOT WITH KIDS' TOYS LIKE THAT!
HAVE SOME SELF-RESPECT!
IRON MAN ACTS LIKE HE OWNS THE CITY, AND THAT'S ALL RIGHT BY ME.

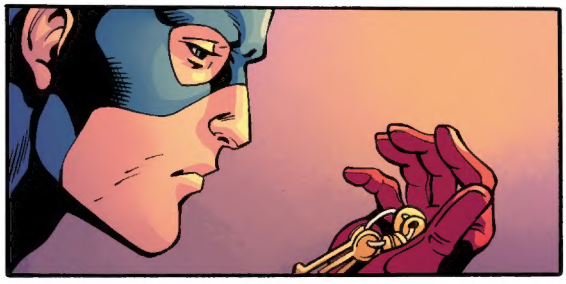
THOR, WHO IS ABOUT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MAN I'VE EVER SEEN AND I SHOULD FOCUS--
--THOR TAKES NO LIP FROM ANYONE, NOT EVEN A FELLOW ASGARDIAN WITH A STEEL-SPLITTING AXE.
HAVE AT THEE, CRAVEN DULLARD!
AND ME--
EYAAAH!
--I'LL DO THE JOBS THE BOYS ARE TOO SEXIST TO DO COMFORTABLY--
--LIKE PUNCH OUT THE BLONDE.
YOU WON'T TAKE ME ALIVE!
I'D DESTROY THIS WHOLE CITY BEFORE I'D GO BACK TO PRISON!
HOT DOGS $1

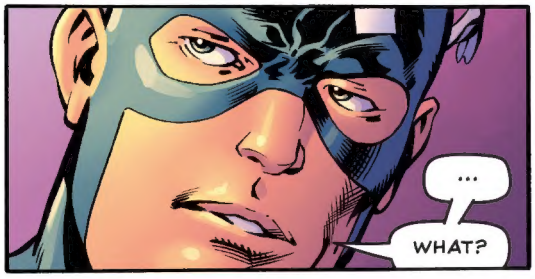
I THINK HE MEANS IT.
PLEASE.
WE'RE NOT LETTING HIM DESTROY SO MUCH AS ANOTHER *LAMPPOST.*
THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY *COUNT* ON US.
WE ARE *CONFIDENT.*
WE ARE *UNBEATABLE.*

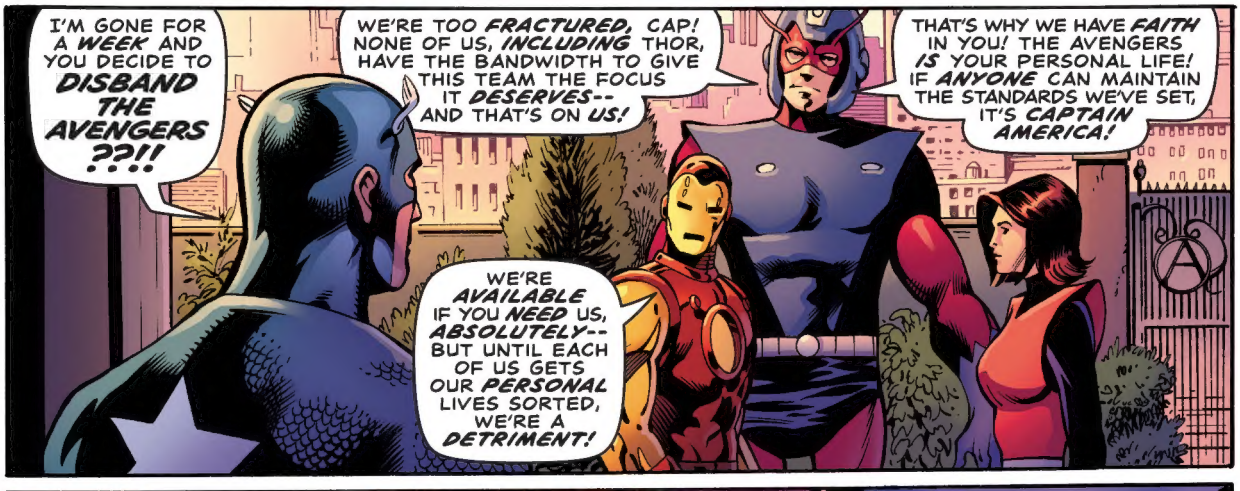
AND THAT'S THAT!
ENCHANTRESS AND EXECUTIONER ARE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN! THEY MUST HAVE RUN WITH THEIR TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS!
AVENGERS FOREVER!
AVENGERS FOREVER!
AVENGERS FOREVER!
CANST THOU BLAME THEM?
WE ARE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.
AND WE ARE TIRED.

48 HOURS LATER.





"GO ON IN--
"--AND MEET YOUR NEW TEAM!"
≡SIGH≡
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE...?

AND THERE CAME A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES DECIDED TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF AND WERE REPLACED WITH A GROUP OF UNTESTED, UNTRIED NEW RECRUITS: HAWKEYE, A MASTER ARCHER AND REFORMED CRIMINAL, AND TWO OF MAGNETO'S FORMER MINIONS--THE SPEEDSTER QUICKSILVER AND HIS TWIN SISTER, THE MYSTERIOUS SCARLET WITCH.

CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS TASKED WITH TURNING THE MEMBERS OF THIS RAGTAG TEAM INTO AVENGERS, BUT THAT WAS A STORY NEVER REVEALED...UNTIL NOW.

# THE AVENGERS

| | |
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| LETTERER | FERRAN DELGADO |
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AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY



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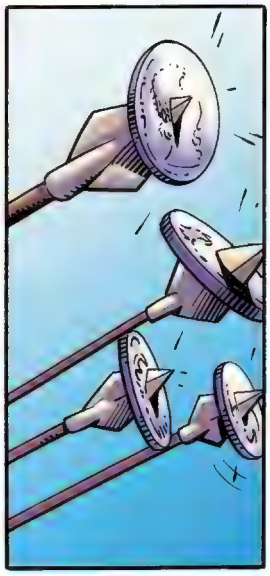
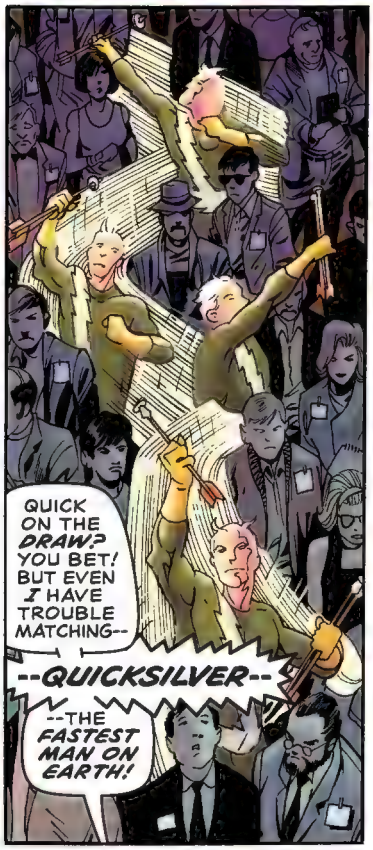
TWO HOURS LATER.
A PRESS CONFERENCE. HE SET UP A PRESS CONFERENCE SO I CAN INTRODUCE THEM TO THE WORLD.
A CARNY WITH A BOW AND ARROW, A SUPER-SPEED KEG OF DYNAMITE, AND A BOMBSHELL WHOSE POWERS "SOMETIMES BACKFIRE."
ALL THREE OF THEM REFORMED VILLAINS.
THANKS, IRON MAN.
HELLO, JARVIS.
MASTER ROGERS. MAY I BE OF SERVICE?
DO YOU HAVE AN EIGHT-FOOT-TALL BLOCK OF ICE I CAN CRAWL BACK INTO?
I'M AFRAID NOT, SIR.
THEN NO, THANKS.
C'MON, STEVE. YOU CAN DO THIS. YOU'VE LED BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN INTO BATTLE BEFORE.
IT'S YOUR TEAM NOW. ACT LIKE IT.
DON'T LET NEW YORK DOWN--
LADIIIIES AND GENTLEMEN!
OH, GOD...
LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

MEET THE ALL-NEW AVENGERS!
WHO HERE HAS SOME POCKET CHANGE?

YOU, SIR? THROW IT UP IN THE AIR FOR ME--

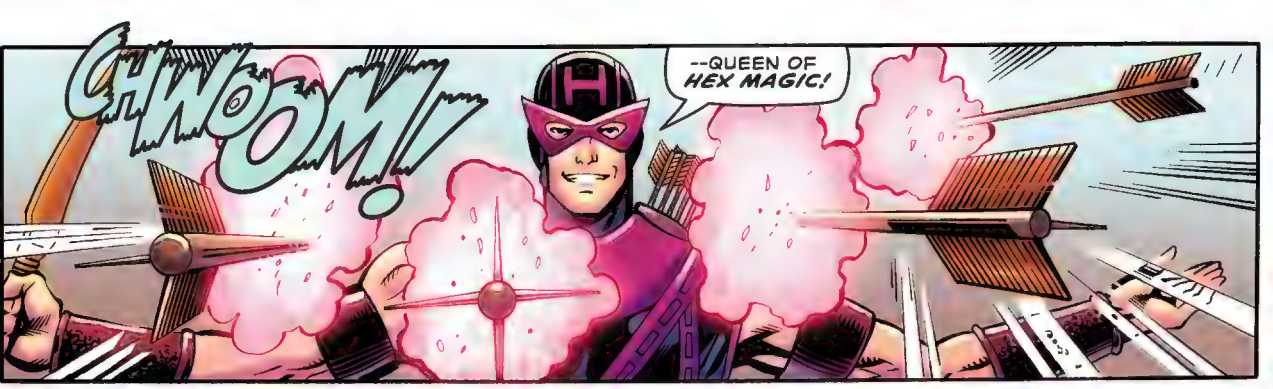
--HAWKEYE--
--THE WORLD'S GREATEST MARKSMAN!




QUICK ON THE DRAW? YOU BET! BUT EVEN I HAVE TROUBLE MATCHING--
--QUICKSILVER--
--THE FASTEST MAN ON EARTH!

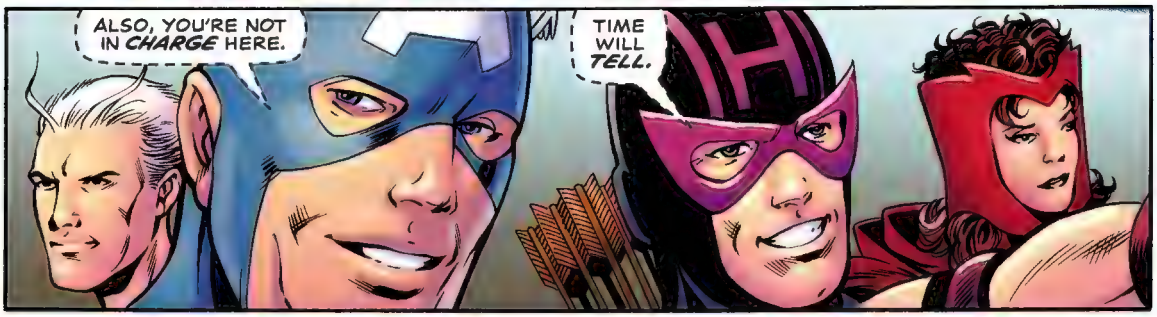
LASTLY, MAY I INTRODUCE QUICKSILVER'S SISTER, WANDA, A.K.A.--

--THE SCARLET WITCH--


CHWOOM!
--QUEEN OF HEX MAGIC!

WAIT! THERE'S MORE!
REPRESENTING THE OLD GUARD--YOUR GRANDPARENTS KNEW HIM--
LET'S HEAR IT FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

YOU STARTED EARLY.
YOU'RE JUST SLOW, METHUSELAH.
PRESS


ALSO, YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE HERE.
TIME WILL TELL.

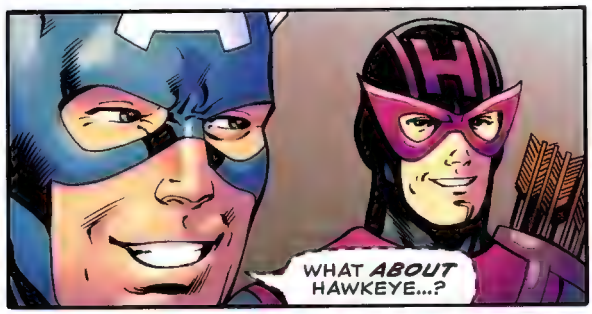
NEW FACES, YES--BUT THE SAME COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE. THOR AND THE OTHERS HAVE MOVED ON TO OTHER ENDEAVORS--
--BUT THESE THREE FOUGHT ENORMOUS ODDS TO GET TO WHERE THEY ARE. THEY ARE CAPABLE, COURAGEOUS, TENACIOUS--
THEY'RE TERRORISTS!
PRESS

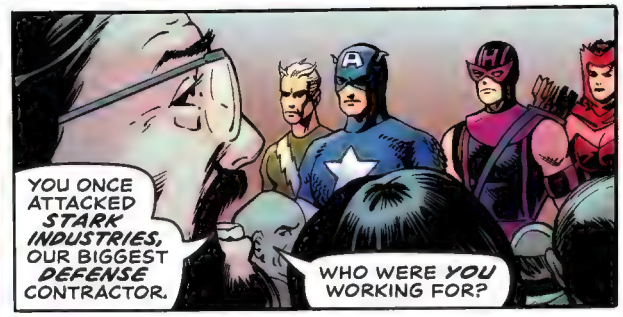
WHO SAID THAT?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, PIETRO. SHE'S FREE TO SPEAK HER MIND.
GO AHEAD, MA'AM.

LAURA MARSHALL, CABLE-1. JUST LAST MONTH, THE WITCH AND QUICKSILVER WERE MEMBERS OF MAGNETO'S MUTANT EXTREMIST CELL!

THEY WERE PAWNS, I ASSURE YOU. I--
HOW CAN YOU? WHAT IS THE AVENGERS' PROCESS FOR VETTING NEW MEMBERS? WHY ARE THESE TWO SUDDENLY ACCEPTABLE?

AND WHAT ABOUT HAWKEYE?


WHAT ABOUT HAWKEYE...?


YOU ONCE ATTACKED STARK INDUSTRIES, OUR BIGGEST DEFENSE CONTRACTOR.
WHO WERE YOU WORKING FOR?

THAT THING WITH ME AND STARK, THAT'S CLASSIFIED. AND THE FACT THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT IT MEANS THAT I MADE SOME ROOKIE MISTAKES.
BUT ONCE A HERO STARTS TO MATURE, HE LEARNS TO RELY ON SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE.
WITH THIS TEAM BACKING ME UP, I LIKE MY CHANCES.

AND THAT'S HOW YOU PLAY TO AN AUDIENCE, KIDS. SMILE PRETTY.

HAWKEYE'S MAKING HIMSELF SOUND LIKE THE TEAM LEADER, CAP.
IS HE BUCKING FOR YOUR JOB?
EVERY ONE OF US UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF COHESION AND DISCIPLINE. NEXT QUESTION.

FOR SCARLET WITCH: DID YOU TAKE AN OATH TO SUBJUGATE HUMANS?
AND DO YOU HONOR YOUR OATHS?
WHAT?
BROTHER, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I TOLD YOU WOULD HAPPEN HERE!
IS THIS AN INQUISITION? WILL THERE BE TORTURE? OR WILL YOU SIMPLY THROW ME IN A DUNGEON?
WANDA. VENT. YOUR ANGER. IN PRIVATE.
SLAM!
CAP, IF THIS TEAM CAN'T FACE A FEW REPORTERS, HOW'S IT GONNA DO AGAINST THE BAD GUYS...?

I GIVE YOU THE NEW ORDER: HAWKEYE, QUICKSILVER, THE SCARLET WITCH AND MYSELF.
HA!
THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, WIZARD?
THIS NEW AVENGERS LINEUP-- MORE FEEBLE THAN THE FANTASTIC FOUR, AND WE CRUSHED THEM.*
SO WHAT? THAT GOT US NOWHERE. NOBODY EVEN KNOWS.
WE DIDN'T DO IT FOR PUBLICITY.
WIZARD.
TRAPSTER.
MEDUSA.
SANDMAN.
*AS SEEN IN FANTASTIC FOUR #38. --TOM
AH, BUT RECOGNITION NEVER HURT.
WE ANNIHILATED DR. RICHARDS' TEAM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC. BUT THESE DOLLAR STORE AVENGERS HAPPEN TO BE IN MIDTOWN AT THE MOMENT, SURROUNDED BY CAMERAS.
BUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR WERE A THREAT TO US. THESE AVENGERS HAVE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR.
THE BLOOD ON OUR HANDS WILL SEE DAYLIGHT EVENTUALLY. HOW DO YOU THINK THE AVENGERS WILL REACT TO OUR PRESENCE?
WE MUST STRIKE PREEMPTIVELY.
TO THE GRAV-SPHERE!
YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES!

WANDA, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR UNSPENT ANGER? I CAN BARELY CONTAIN MYSELF. THAT ARROGANT REPORTER--
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO BE AN AVENGER.
THEN I AM AN IDIOT. I DID NOT ANTICIPATE WHAT I WOULD BE PUTTING YOU THROUGH.
PUTTING US THROUGH.
WE WERE PAWNS. MAGNETO USED US AGAINST THE X-MEN, AND IT SHAMES ME TO REMEMBER HOW PLIABLE WE WERE.
ALL I WANT IS A CHANCE TO ATONE FOR ANY SINS WE MAY BE GUILTY OF.
WE MUSTN'T ARGUE, SISTER. I WILL TALK TO CAPTAIN AMERICA-- TELL HIM WE ARE SORRY, BUT THIS WILL NOT WORK OUT.
NO. LET'S NOT GIVE THE PUBLIC NEW REASONS TO HATE US.
WE HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH.

SO. BACK TO THE CARNY LIFE? SLEEPING IN TENTS? EATING FROM CANS?
IT'S BETTER THAN THIS.
I MEAN, WHO COULD BE NAÏVE ENOUGH TO PARADE MAGNETO'S FINEST AROUND FOR AN AUDIENCE OF HOMO SAPIENS?
ANSWER: THE HUMAN FLAGPOLE.
NEXT QUESTION: WHY WOULD ANYONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND STICK AROUND FOR THIS DISASTER?
YOU RANG, SIR?
I HAVE A BUTLER.
YOU HAVE A BUTLER.
JARVIS, I FEEL LIKE LOBSTER TONIGHT.
VERY GOOD, SIR.

CAP? THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON OUTSIDE--!
"EARTH'S MIGHTIEST," INDEED.
WE'RE HERE TO SEE FOR OURSELVES.

I THOUGHT WE WERE HERE TO BATTLE THE AVENGERS, NOT TRAMPLE INNOCENTS.
LOOK RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, MADAME MEDUSA.
YOUR WISH IS GRANTED.
HAWKEYE, GET THE ONE WITH THE HAIR! QUICKSILVER, THE SHOOTER! SCARLET WITCH, THE FLYING MAN! I HAVE SANDMAN!
WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS, WORK AS A UNIT!
I WANT THIS OVER QUICK. GOT IT?
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

WE'RE FINISHED HERE.
OH, DEAR GOD.
WHAT HAVE WE DONE...?
NEXT:
AVENGERS FIVE

# ALL ABOUT THE AVENGERS

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM MARKED "OKAY TO PRINT"!

—Okay, don't waste one single, solitary minute! Take your pen in hand—or put your typewriter on the desk—or take the paper off your greasy little crayon—but, whatever you do, let's hear what you think of our all-new, all-different AVENGERS and their baptism of fire as a new team! Printing a mag like this is like producing a show and sweating out the opening night! So, let's hear it fast—unless you're disappointed! In that case, take your time—we can wait! Well, while we're biting our nails, we might as well see what's shakin' out there in Marvel-land, so here goes—

Dear Stan and Don,

Oh, come on! Stop all this folderol and put Captain America where he belongs; in his own feature-length magazine! You know as well or better than anyone that he deserves it, having been your biggest star in the forties. Also he has enough private life to warrant twenty-two pages. And besides that, everyone seems to like him, so there really is no excuse for him not having his own mag. (If you're worried about the extra work, why don't you retire a western or two?) I'll be looking forward eagerly to issue #1 of CAPTAIN AMERICA. I'll also be looking forward to issues #1 of IRON MAN and THOR, as they should have their own mags, too. You can't do justice to these two fine heroes in just thirteen or eighteen pages, so discontinue TALES OF SUSPENSE and JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY and give the Man of Iron and the God of Thunder each twenty-two pages to romp in. How about it? As for giving the Hulk his own mag again, I say no. This serial-like series in TALES TO ASTONISH is the best I've seen of ol' Green Skin yet. He couldn't be better in his own book, so I vote to leave him just as is. And Dr. Strange is perfect the way he is, too. He hasn't enough private life to warrant any more pages, and please don't try to give him any. It would spoil his whole character.

Well, I guess that's about all I wanted to tell you for this five cents worth, so in conclusion I'll just say that up until May of 1963, I hadn't bought a comic book for a good many years. Now, I'm buying nine of them a month —all Marvel's. My parents think I'm too old (19) for such literary interests as comics, but I figure you're never too old for a good story, whether it's by a Shakespeare or a Stan Lee. Keep up the good work.

Richard Cochran, 2914 E. Moreland St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85008

**First of all, Dick, Stan wants to know how come you mentioned Shakespeare's name first? You know how things like that upset our leader! Next, as far as Captain America is concerned, he's the star of the AVENGERS, and the co-star of TALES OF SUSPENSE! If we feature him any more, our other costumed cherubs are liable to go on strike! As for Thor, he already *has* his own mag—or does that big word T-H-O-R on the cover leave you unimpressed? We'd like to give ol' Shell-Head a mag of his own, too, but dazzlin' Donny Heck just hasn't time to draw any more pages a month, and he'd sit in the corner and weep if we let anyone else illustrate our tin man's titanic adventures! Anyway, if you didn't write such long letters, you might have time to buy *more* than just nine Marvel mags a month! What we wanna know is—which ones are you missing?**

Dear Stan and Don,

I just thought of something as I was rereading your latest issue of the AVENGERS – #14 – "Even Avengers Can Die." Captain America had the same costume in the 1940's as he does today. It must be pretty worn out, not to mention being dirty. How about giving him a new costume —still retaining the red, white and blue, but with a modern touch? Also, I like the new Giant-Man and that new villainess Madam Macabre and would like to see more of her.

Eugene Bearringer, 508 Eleanor Ave.
Toledo 12, Ohio

**When we go to the trouble of dreaming up a new villainess, Gene, you can bet your bottom dollar we're not gonna discard her after only one appearance! But, about Cap's costume, we're afraid we can't help you. It's like asking us to redesign the Statue of Liberty! There's a better chance of seeing Thor dressed for a maypole dance than there is of changing Cap's garb! (Unless a zillion fans agree with you—which we don't think will happen.)**

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

**A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!**

**FANTASTIC FOUR #40:** If you read no other magazine all month, you must read this one! It's the thriller you've been waiting for—"The Battle of The Baxter Building!", in which the fabulous F.F. wages a no-holds-barred free-for-all against the most dangerous villain of all time—Doctor Doom! It's like WOW!

**SPIDER-MAN #26:** Not only is Spidey one of the greatest action characters in the Marvel line-up, but we've now added the element of MYSTERY to his tales! You're sure to go batty as you try to figure out the secret of "The Man in The Crime-Master's Mask!"

**X-MEN #11:** Another shocker from the House of Ideas: This one was specially produced in answer to many of your earnest requests, and it finally presents the end of the evil mutants! Also, wait till you meet The Stranger!

**DAREDEVIL #8:** For those of you who've wondered what we could possibly come up with to top our previous sensational D.D. thrillers, here's your answer—in spades! D.D. battles the most off-beat villain of the month (ANY month) when he tackles the startling, stupifying Stiltman! You'll have a ball!

**THOR #117:** This unforgettable epic is entitled: "Into The Blaze Of Battle!" and you'd better hang onto your seat when you read it! It features Thor's quest for an enchanted packet—a quest which brings him face-to-face with tragedy on an Asiatic battlefield! It's drenched with glory!

**STRANGE TALES #134:** This month's Torch and Thing thriller features a long-awaited surprise! The title will give you the idea: "Enter—the Watcher!" As for Dr. Strange, he's up to his amulet in all kinds of magical mishaps! This ish is for you!

**SUSPENSE #67:** Iron Man fights six super-foes in this one and even finds time to bring Happy back to the fold! As for Captain America, he's out to destroy his own nation, under the hypnotic control of the Red Skull! If there's a more exciting mag around, we'll eat it!

**ASTONISH #69:** Giant-Man finally catches up with the Human Top, and their battle is a joy to behold! As for the incredible Hulk, it's so full of strange surprises that the only thing we'll tell now is that ol' green skin is winning every popularity poll in town hands down!

**SGT. FURY #19:** Those of you who were shaken up by the death of Pamela Hawley last ish, (and that includes 'most everybody) won't want to miss "An Eye For An Eye" in which Nick Fury meets up with the man responsible for Pam's death! It's stark, gripping drama as only Marvel can present it!

Dear Stan and Don,

You guys at Marvel are the absolute greatest. Especially Stan, Jack, Don, and Artie. Whew! Just yesterday I finished my collection of THE FANTASTIC FOUR up to number 36, and SPIDER MAN up to number 22. But then I got an idea. I thought about all the poor people in hospitals who didn't have any of the Marvel greats. Then I thought maybe they would like to have my Marvel collection, so I got three boxes and filled them with Marvel mags like all my FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDER MAN,

AVENGERS, X-MEN and others. I just wanted to tell you how great all Marvel mags are and how proud I was when I saw the faces of those patients light up and say, "Oh boy, Marvel comics!" It gave me the greatest feeling I have ever had and ever will have. Keep up the good work.

George Bryant, 333 Country Club Dr.
San Gabriel, Calif.

**Good for you, George! We've always been mighty proud of our fabulous fans, and letters like yours just point up one of the reasons why! We've sent Marvel magazines to hospitals for years now, and so we can imagine the feeling of intense satisfaction you must have experienced. And, we hope your letter will inspire many other Marvel readers and collectors!**

—*Say!* We almost forgot to tell you! Here's one of the biggest announcements of the year! Marvel has EIGHT giant 25¢ issues in the works for this summer! (Although two of 'em are PATSY'S FASHION PARADE, and MILLIE THE MODEL, so they probably won't excite you super-hero fans—though they make great gifts for your gal friends and/or sisters! Dig?) But, the remaining six are—(hold onto your hats!) THOR! SGT. FURY AND HIS YOU-KNOW-WHATS! FANTASTIC FOUR! SPIDER-MAN! MARVEL TALES! And waddaya know—KID COLT, OUTLAW! See? We tried to have something for everyone! (Including a big fat profit for US!) We'll give you more info on our super-spectaculars next ish, but till then, start saving your quarters—it's almost unpatriotic to miss any of them!

Dear Stan and Don,

My warmest compliments to the Suzerain of the Suspenseful Script and to the Tetrach of the Titanic Tableau. But I must report that in the past week I have met three people who were unaware of the existence of the MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY. This can only mean one thing—you humble shrinking violets haven't talked yourselves up enough. Regardless of what you say, I seriously doubt that there are five signs advertising the Society on every corner. You haven't said where we're marching to, or when, or why, but I have joined anyway. But in all seriousness, why don't you start a love affair between Dr. Doom and Millie the Model? Doesn't every girl want to marry a doctor? Finally, in AVENGERS #14 you have them fighting a different bunch of marchers from under the North Pole. In X-MEN #10 they're fighting people and other things under the same ol' North Pole. Of course, the Mole Man is down there too, so isn't it getting a little crowded??

Jim Murphy, 1750 Main
Osawatomie, Kansas

**Glad you brought it to our attention, Jimmy! You know how original *we* are! Next time we do an underearth story we'll make it completely different—we'll let it take place under the *South* Pole! How'szat?**

—We don't want to keep throwing the hard sell at you, but we've just got to say this—The M.M.M.S. is growing by leaps and bounds. From now on, every Marvel mag will devote a full page to notices, offers, and surprises dealing with the fan club to end all fan clubs! We've got all kinds of unexpected treats in store for our Merry Marchers! So, if you haven't joined yet, do yourself a favor and send in your coupon soon—or, before you know it, there'll be no one but you and the Mole Man who isn't wearing a membership button! 'Nuff said!

Dear Stan and Don,

I am holding you personally responsible—responsible for making me one of the most popular boys in my school (at least as far as the girls I like are concerned). Once in my dark, dismal past I thought that I might have to hide the fact that I am an M.M.M.S. member. Because of this, I humbly apologize and wish that Thor beans me with a bolt of his fun-loving lightning and that ol' Giant man shrinks me to a microbe because, thanks to this wonderful club—which is destined to eventually take over the entire world, I have set up a regular electronically controlled communication system with three wonderful girls; and I think I can safely say that before long they will be added to your M.M.M.S. membership list. Well, gotta go now. Don't forget to polish Thor's helmet.

Jack House, 6540 N. Black Canyon
Phoenix, Arizona

**You mean being a Merry Marcher helps you to be popular with girls, Jack? *Yeesh!* If that staggering bit of news ever gets around, we'll have to print up another few million membership cards pronto! But, we're still not fully convinced, pal! All of our bullpen buddies are M.M.M.S.'ers, 'natch, and some of them are still single! How do you explain *that?***

Dear Stan and Don,

First, I want to introduce myself. My name is Fred Ludwig. I am a German and live in Ludwigshafen am Rhein, W. Germany. Every month I go secretly to the newsstand at the American gasoline station in Reidelberg. There I buy myself comics, 'American comics'!! Yours are the best. They are magnificent, terrific, and wonderful! I can't find another word to tell you how great they are. This month I missed TALES OF SUSPENSE. I was very sad about that. Why doesn't Spidey join the Avengers? Why is he a lone wolf? I do hope you will answer my questions and give the Wasp a helmet like Giant Man so that she can become Giant Girl. Together they would be a powerful team. That's all.

Fred Ludwig, Ludwigshafen 1Rh (GF)
Ludwigsahr 12, West Germany

**Spidey doesn't join the Avengers because they haven't asked him! And he's a lone wolf because poor Stevey Ditko has enough characters to draw now, without making things tougher for him! As for the Wasp, she's so busy trying to make Henry Pym forget all about being Giant-Man, that a Giant-Girl helmet is the last thing on earth she'd want right now! How's *that* for direct, forthright question answering, Freddie boy? But, how about you answering a question for us? How come you say that you go "secretly" to buy your Marvel mags? We should think you'd be so proud of your taste in adventure reading that you'd bring a brass band with you! Anyway, lots o' luck to you, lad, and Auf Wiedersehen from the bullpen!**

Dear Stan and Don,

I must have sat down at least ten times to whack you out a letter, but this time I plan to finish it. Before I could finish any of the other letters, I'd develop a severe guilt complex about not having finished my homework, and I'd have to postpone my letter in favor of psychology or philosophy. But this time I have it all done, so I can whack into the early hours without any complexes. First off, I'd like to offer my no-prize suggestions. I'm not going to say "Make Cap wear green sox" or "Have the Hulk turn purple" but rather I'm going to concern myself with things that I have been waiting a long time to see happen. Make Rick an Avenger soon. He's still a little rusty, and I can tell it's coming, but I'm chomping at the bit to see Cap drop his fear of hurting another teenager by letting him exercise his skill. Gee, fellas, how could anything get accomplished if Reed felt that way about the Torch? Spidey would go over big in a college setting next fall. Let Parker knock Flash flat—the abuse Pete takes from his peers isn't really relevant to the series anymore. You can afford to drop it. Your comics make relaxing breaks between one grueling college assignment and another. This is my third year that I've been with Marvel—and every month, too! Sleep tight, men, and congrats on excellent work.

Greg Stevens, 1918 Strand
Hermosa Beach, Calif.

**Enjoyed your letter, Greg, and we're basking in the warmth of your congenial congrats! But, we're not as certain as you are that Rick will eventually become an Avenger! We kinda suspect that he'll end up back with the Hulk! Of course, we could be wrong—but don't bet on it, son! After all, from where we sit, you might say that we've got a little inside info!**

—Well, that brings us to the end of this ish! We feel you've done so much reading already, that we're not gonna make you read a lengthy blurb describing our next masterpiece! All we'll tell you is—it features your favorite type of supervillain and the same old Marvel magic at the talented hands of Stan and Don! And this you can bet on—it will be packed with action, mystery, and most of all—another fantastically unexpected development in the lives of our Avengers! So, don't dare be late when you hear "AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!" —you don't want Cap to give you a demerit, do you? See ya next ish—we're all gonna have a ball!

NEXT: